

Application No.: 10/789,397
Filing Date: February 27, 2004

REMARKS

By this paper, Applicants cancel Claims 1, 4, and 12, and amend Claims 2, 3, and 5-9. Claims 2, 3, and 5-11 remain pending and are presented for further examination.

Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Abebe for the helpful telephonic interview on November 20, 2007 (the "Interview"). As described in the foregoing **Summary of Interview**, Examiner Abebe clarified that Claim 3 should have been listed as "objected to" and that the limitation of dependent Claim 3 is allowable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 5 of the Office Action, Examiner Abebe indicated Claims 2 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and intervening claim limitations. In the Interview, Applicant indicated Claim 3 would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and intervening claim limitations. Claims 2, 3, and 6 have been amended to incorporate the base claim and intervening claim limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2, 3, and 6 are allowable.

Rejected Claims

The Office Action indicated Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Pub. 20050091057.

Applicant traverses this rejection. However, the claim amendments illustrated in the foregoing Amendments to the Claims are submitted to facilitate the allowance of the objected to claims and the claims dependent thereon. No new matter is added by the claim amendments.

Claims 1, 4, and 12 are canceled by this paper. In the Interview, Claim 3 was deemed to be in fact allowable subject matter, and was re-written as an independent claim. Claims 5 and 7-11 were amended to depend directly or indirectly from (now) independent Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert Claim 3 is now allowable, and Claims 5 and 7-11 are also allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 6.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather,

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any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Conclusion

Applicants have endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are made in order to improve the clarity of claim language, to correct grammatical mistakes or ambiguities, and to otherwise improve the clarity of the claims to particularly and distinctly point out the invention to those of skill in the art. Finally, Applicants submit that the claim limitations above represent only illustrative distinctions. Hence, there may be other patentable features that distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and, particularly, that all claims be allowed. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the undersigned.

Application No.: 10/789,397
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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